

# Cunniff School PTO Meeting

March 5, 2019

## Attendance

Milton, Lee, Jen, Tina, Mena, Judy, Jackie, Will, Carolyn, Georgia, Anna

## Principal's Update

Tomorrow is an early release. Responsive Classroom best practices within our school will be the focus of tomorrow's professional development for teachers. Next week, we have Band-o-rama. The staff rescheduled Literacy Night due to the tragic loss of Ms. Donovan. It is being included on May 13 as part of the Fine Arts & Fitness Night.

## Guest Speaker: Judy Fallows

Ms. Fallows is the garden coordinator for the district, primarily for the elementary schools. The Cunniff in particular was the second school to build beds with grant funding and vegetables have been growing ever since. We have one bed that needs to be replaced and will be relocated further from the courtyard, away from where the children are playing. A new position, a garden teacher leader, has been funded and every school will have their own. Looking forward, we want to make sure the gardens have a good home for the gardens with the upcoming renovations. "Outdoor classrooms" as learning spaces will be integrated. There are many connections to curriculum with the gardens, including grade 3 with Plimoth Plantation and their life cycle unit as well. Most of the materials that go into the gardens need to be funded and any help from the PTO is greatly appreciated and is applied specifically to each school's garden spending (as opposed to district grants that are allocated to all schools). Grade 5 will be managing a composting unit. Carolyn reminded us that we can reapply for the \$5,000 Lowes grant that we needed to wait a year or two after being awarded the initial grant. Gardens as outdoor learning spaces can be utilized to arts, language arts, math (measuring, counting) and is a great resource for the school. Ms. Fallows has asked the PTO for any financial support for the new bed that is needed and fencing to protect it. The plastic beds are more expensive, but she will get back to us with the cost breakdown.

## Upcoming Events

Carolyn gave a brief presentation on behalf of Naomi Ridge, who is in need of donations for NEADS World Class Service Dogs. The website to donate is [www.neads.org/naomi-ridge](http://www.neads.org/naomi-ridge).

Toy bin for upper grade levels – Milton found one at Home Depot that would be delivered. It is priced around \$250. Mena wants to ensure that it is strong enough that students wouldn't be able to move it. Everyone agreed.

International Night (April 25<sup>th</sup>) – Anna reported that we have 3 countries right now so we are looking for more volunteers. The students in the after school program will be involved in the planning. This week, Anna plans to get a flyer together with details and asking for volunteers. She also hopes to finalize entertainment for the event. Mena hopes to have Anna attend the next Principal's Coffee for the families of many of our ESL students.

Spelling bee (March 31<sup>st</sup>) – Registration for the event is now open.

### **New Business**

Get Movin' Referral Check for \$100 for referring Lowell and Hosmer. Tina put it under Misc. funds.

Spring BOGO (buy 1, get 1 for free) book fair – The dates we are looking at are May 13-15. We have two parents who are working on it together. Mena noted that it is great timing because the 13<sup>th</sup> is our literacy night so it would be great to hold evening hours. The \$500 of Scholastic Dollars that we need to spend by the end of May will be allocated for Literacy Night book swap options. We also need to fund summer reading books as well. We have another \$4,000+ to spend that we can look at options for future spending.

### **Fundraisers**

Spring Raffle – ending Thursday

Box Top Contest - started

Fire Truck escort – spring

Stop & Shop card fundraiser has raised over \$440 thus far (totaled \$350 last year)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Update**

Grade 5 will sell pizza at the spelling bee.

### **Events Recaps**

Family Fun Night – PTO and grade 5 both profited.

Watertown Food Pantry sent a letter thanking us for our donations and they were very grateful for our participation.

Meadow Farms – Tina contacted them regarding the discrepancy is being charged for online sales and they rectified.

### **Financial Snapshot**

We have met our goal 😊

Mena inquired about bringing in a food truck for Literacy Night that could help attract more people. We will speak with Hosmer PTO about how it has worked as a fundraiser. Also, Mike Tempesta is very eager to get started on Field Day preparations so Mena will plan a meeting with Lee and Milton to start planning.

Lee also reported that our insurance is all set and effective from January.

Milton brought up doing an end of year carnival. He contacted a company that will set up a movie screen and bring 2 rides.

**Our next meeting will be held April 2, 2019.**